

# **CITY-COUNTY PARKS BOARD**

## **MINUTES**

**December 3, 2014**

**City-County Building, room 426**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

11:30 A.M.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Pat Doyle, Dave Payne, Jane Kollmeyer, John Carter, Nyle Howson, Ross Johnson. Melissa Lewis was excused.

### **ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT**

City Commissioner Andres Haladay

### **STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT**

Craig Marr, Amy Teegarden, Liz Jones, Matt Heimel, George Thebarger, Carol Kirkland

### **ESTABLISH QUORUM AND REVIEW OF AGENDA**

A quorum was present.

### **CONSENT ACTION ITEMS**

The November 5, 2014, minutes were approved as presented.

### **COMMENTS FROM PERSONS PRESENT:**

**PRESENTATIONS** – Amy gave information on the updated Peanut Park proposal from Mike Hiel and shared a draft memo on the proposed changes based on the feedback received. There will be minimal work, but the unsafe play equipment will be replaced and will be accessible. The north hill will be reconfigured as a small gathering area named Margaret's Hollow, and landscaped areas will be added. The memo and map will be mailed to area residents showing the revised plan. The planting improvements and earthwork will be in-kind work from Gardenwerks.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS** Standing Items: proposed regional park district: Amy noted she, George, and Matt will be making a presentation to a joint meeting of the four commissions tomorrow. Prickly Pear Land Trust and the Helena Recreation Foundation have also expressed interest in the district creation process. She will be asking for direction from the commissions on whether to proceed or not. George noted there is support for the idea but with reservations because of the financial impact from other potential bond issues. He noted that the county had gained much information from the process to date.

### **ACTION ITEMS –**

#### **REPORTS**

**CITY** – Amy noted parks staff's meetings with budget staff on the city comprehensive capital improvement program. The financial news is not good because there is so much deferred maintenance that needs to be funded. Staff also met on trails maintenance and asked for policies on all types of trail

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maintenance. Parks will maintain urban trails and so will develop a trail management plan and a trail inventory. She also reported her presentation of the tobacco-free resolution to the commission. Parks has a small contract with Hydrosolutions for an analysis to develop parks wells and begin a funding mechanism for them. The city may also need to consider not watering some parks. The commission determines priorities for capital, so currently the parks maintenance shop is 16 on list. She will speak to the commission in January or February to discuss it further. Parks is also considering a co- maintenance facility with the golf course. Someone wants to create an ice castle at Centennial Park. John noted that a parks district would tie in directly to the city's mandate for trails maintenance. He also discussed working with the school district on a maintenance facility. Amy asked if the board had any issues they would like to see on the Parks Board agenda. Dave asked for a parks map. Jane would like to hear what happens to issues after they leave the Parks Board. John suggested the parks plan be kept in front of the board for consistency and provide focus on what is being done. Amy noted the department has a work plan that ties to the parks plan. She also noted a new community survey should be performed for the Land and Water Conservation Fund process. George noted the existing county parks plan was done in-house and is being considered to be done on a broader basis.

COUNTY – Matt reported the county has multiple subdivision applications coming in and is also receiving cash in lieu of parkland dedication money.

HOLMAC – Jane reported no new business.

LINCOLN – Nyle reported the new Lincoln board is getting organized and will meet in January.

RECREATION – Liz reported the ice rinks will open December 19 weather permitting. She will be training staff next week. Planning is underway to conduct an all-women's triathlon and private swimming lessons at the pool next summer. The KMYF dance is scheduled March 20. The KYMF board is also working on an open house at the ice rink to get their name out into the community on a consistent basis as a way to grow the program.

MAINTENANCE – Craig reported staff is working on creating ice and putting up Christmas lights. Urban forestry has been dealing with windblown branches. Staff is working in the shop and trying to find places to park equipment with all the snow on the ground. John said the school district is building an ice rink at Jefferson School through a grant.

FAIR BOARD – Dave reported the board is working on ways to generate money and determining wants versus needs. Promenade improvements are in the works. He noted that people are being told no because there are not enough facilities for events that bring in money. The board has seen a need to develop

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a closer relationship to the business community as a way to tie in events at the fairgrounds and bring in more people and revenue.

PLAYABLE PLAYGROUND – Stacy reported the La Casa Grande and Eastgate playground grants are ready for submission. A grant has just been completed for a portable indoor playground that can be set up anywhere. The zombie prom and tea have been scheduled and possibly a father-daughter ball.

BIKE HELENA – Pat reported 2015 media plans are completed and will be primarily online along with several other large events planned for 2015.

SCHOOL DISTRICT – John reported the school working group is still meeting to discuss where planning for the schools could go.

OTHER – Commissioner Haladay commented on trails maintenance and suggested focusing on taking care of what is already available instead of seeking connections with other jurisdictions.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (BOARD MEMBERS)** John asked if the county parks budget could be available at the next meeting.

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING DATE:** January 7, 2015

**FUTURE DISCUSSION ITEMS:** wells vs. city water; artificial turf; La Casa Grande playground; parks map; followup to issues after they leave the Parks Board; central access to agendas and minutes/dropbox; Helena Recreation Foundation

**ADJOURN** – 12:51 P.M.

Carol Kirkland  
Recorder